

SLC Talking Points: Pesticides Program

Pesticide Regulation Overview

EPA regulates pesticides under the authorities of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA); the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA); the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996; the Endangered Species Act (ESA); and the Pesticide Registration Improvement Renewal Act (PRIA).

Registration

- FIFRA generally requires that before any pesticide may be sold or distributed in the U.S., EPA must license its sale through a process called “registration.”
- During registration, the agency examines every pesticide product that is intended to be distributed or sold in our country.
- In addition, under FFDCA, EPA sets “tolerances” (maximum residue limits) for pesticides used on food or animal feed. EPA may establish a tolerance or a tolerance exemption for a pesticide residue in food or feed only if the agency finds a “reasonable certainty of no harm” from consumption of the pesticide treated food and from other non-occupational sources of exposure.

Registration Review

- FIFRA also requires EPA to reexamine previously approved pesticides every 15 years through a program called “registration review.”
- Registration Review Progress (as of May 2017)
 - For conventionals, by October 2022, must complete:
 - 250 (50%) draft risk assessments
 - 300 (60%) proposed decisions or interim decisions
 - 350 (70%) final or interim decisions
 - For antimicrobials, by October 2022, must complete
 - 101 (75%) draft risk assessments
 - 102 (76%) proposed decisions or interim decisions
 - 110 (81%) final or interim decisions

Accomplishments

FY16 Registration Highlights- registered 20 new active ingredients (more than half were biopesticides or reduced-risk conventional chemicals); approved products for 213 new uses; approved hundreds of registration amendments; reviewed thousands of notifications of other minor changes to labels.

FY17 Mid-Year Highlights (as of May 2017)

- Registered nine new active ingredients (~99% on-time completion rate for PRIA actions)
- Innovative Mosquito Control Methods
 - developed efficacy standards to support two control methods similar to sterile insect releases
 - currently pending registration, Wolbachia, leverages the impact of bacteria; and another product coming soon, utilizes biotechnology.

- RNAi (biotech)- registered four products containing RNAi based PIP for control of corn rootworm

Ongoing Activities/OPP Challenges

Endangered Species Act

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Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

- ESA lawsuits

Managing Weed Resistance

- GE, herbicide tolerant crops (dicamba crop damage incidents)

Agricultural Worker Protection Standard and Certification of Pesticide Applicator Rules

- Continue to collaborate with states/stakeholders to implement recent rulemakings

Chlorpyrifos

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Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Other OPP Challenges

- Pollinators
- Global registrations/MRL Harmonization
- Nanotechnology
- Emerging Pathogens, e.g., Ebola
- Hospital Disinfectants
- Biotechnology